



Treasury Committee

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Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of The Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horseguards Road
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Via email

7 July 2020

Dear Rishi,

COVID-19 tests by employers- taxable benefit in kind

HMRC guidance yesterday (6 July 2020) clarified that employees will face a taxable benefit in kind when their employer pays for COVID-19 testing. Given that many employers will require these tests on a regular basis, especially in health care settings but also in many other industries (such as hospitality), the tax bills could soon mount up and this does not seem to be a helpful policy at this time.

As you know testing for COVID-19 is an essential precaution and supports our contact tracing systems and it is vital to carry out as much testing as possible to ensure we can return to a normal economy. I think this policy risks deterring workers from taking employer sponsored tests. Many of those affected will be in front line jobs in hospitals and other similar settings, and it seems wrong that a disproportionate tax burden should fall on them at this time.

I would be very grateful if you could look into this matter as soon as possible.

I shall be placing this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

Rt Hon. Mel Stride MP
Chair, Treasury Select Committee